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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 53 (see A/61/422, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 25th and 34th meetings, on 7 November and 8 December 2006. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/61/SR.25 and 34).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.24 and Rev.1

2. At the 25th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/61/L.24), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002, 58/243 of 23 December 2003, 59/234 of 22 December 2004 and 60/197 of 22 December 2005 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,
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> "*Recalling also* the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the acknowledgement that the

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global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

"*Recalling further* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003, the outcome of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Buenos Aires from 6 to 18 December 2004 and the outcome of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties with the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Montreal from 28 November to 10 December 2005,

"*Reaffirming* the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative effects of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects,

"*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

"*Noting also* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and sixty-six ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

"*Noting further* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

"*Reaffirming* its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

"2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change welcome the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005 and strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

"3. *Notes with interest* the activities undertaken under the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

"4. *Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session;

"5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Kenya to host the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 6 to 17 November 2006;

"6. *Also notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

"7. *Invites* the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"8. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At its 34th meeting, on 8 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/61/L.24/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.24.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) At the end of the tenth preambular paragraph, the words "and noting the pending release of the fourth assessment report" were added;

(b) After operative paragraph 1, a new operative paragraph 2 was inserted, reading:

"2. *Notes* the commitments, initiatives and processes undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as the Kyoto Protocol thereto for those which are parties to it, to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention";

(c) A new operative paragraph 4 was inserted, reading:

"4. *Stresses* that the seriousness of climate change argues for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change",

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(d) Operative paragraph 6 (former paragraph 4), which read:

"*Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eleventh and twelfth sessions and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol at its first and second sessions",

was replaced by:

"6. *Takes note* of the outcome of the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first and second sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol";

(e) Operative paragraph 7 (former paragraph 5), which read:

"*Takes note with appreciation* of the recent pledges made by the international community at the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, at the third Global Environment Facility Assembly held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2006, and stresses the importance of fulfilment of the commitments",

was replaced by:

"7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome of the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, including the pledges made by the international community to the Trust Fund at the Third Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2006, and stresses the importance of the fulfilment of the commitments".

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman, Benedicto Fonseca Filho (Brazil) (see A/C.2/61/SR.34).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.24/Rev.1 as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 10 was retained by a recorded vote of 108 to 2, with 48 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Japan, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.24/Rev.1, as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted by a recorded vote of 114 to none, with 49 abstentions (see para. 10). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan,

Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. Before the vote on operative paragraph 10, statements were made by the representatives of Finland and Japan, and the representative of Argentina posed a question to which the Chairperson responded (see A/C.2/61/SR.34).

9. Before the vote on the draft resolution as a whole, a statement was made by the representative of Australia, and statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey as well as Moldova and Ukraine, Japan and Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand). After the vote, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of the Russian Federation; subsequently, a statement was made by the representative of France (see A/C.2/61/SR.34).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002, 58/243 of 23 December 2003, 59/234 of 22 December 2004 and 60/197 of 22 December 2005 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,[3]

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,[6] the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003,[7] the outcome of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Buenos Aires from 6 to 18 December 2004,[8] and the outcome of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 10 December 2005,[9]

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] Ibid., para. 23.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.8.

[7] FCCC/CP/2003/6/Add.1 and 2.

[8] FCCC/CP/2004/10/Add.1 and 2.

[9] FCCC/CP/2005/5/Add.1.

Reaffirming the Mauritius Declaration[10] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[11]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[12]

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative effects of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects,

Noting that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

Noting also that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[13] has attracted one hundred and sixty-six ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

Noting further the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries, and noting the pending release of the fourth assessment report,

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[14]

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[1]

2. *Notes* the commitments, initiatives and processes undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as the Kyoto Protocol thereto[13] for those which are parties to it, to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention;

3. *Also notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol welcome the entry into force of the Protocol on 16 February 2005 and strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

4. *Stresses* that the seriousness of climate change argues for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

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[10] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[11] Ibid., annex II.

[12] See resolution 60/1.

[13] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[14] A/61/225.

5. *Notes with interest* the activities undertaken under the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

6. *Takes note* of the outcome of the eleventh[9] and twelfth sessions[15] of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first[9] and second[15] sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome of the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, including the pledges made by the international community to the Trust Fund at the Third Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2006, and stresses the importance of the fulfilment of the commitments;

8. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the hosting by the Government of Kenya of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Nairobi from 6 to 17 November 2006, and further takes note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Bali from 3 to 14 December 2007;

9. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[16] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[17] and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

10. *Endorses* the continuation of the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the United Nations until such time as a review is deemed necessary by the Conference of the Parties or the General Assembly;

11. *Invites* the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

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[15] FCCC/CP/2006/4-FCCC/KP/CMP/2006/8.

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[17] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.